

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00149 101029Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

-----101034Z 121600 /10

R 101015Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2203

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TW, CH

SUBJECT: USE OF TERM "BANDIT"

REF: STATE 2320

1. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THERE HAS BEEN LESS STRINGENT APPLICATION OF THE USE OF THE TERM "BANDIT" AFTER THE NAMES OF PRC LEADERS IN THE LOCAL PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE CHUNG YANG JIH PAO (CYJP). IN THE CYJP THE PRACTICE APPEARS TO BE THAT WHEN THE NAME OF A PRC LEADERS APPEARS IN THE HEADLINE, HE TERM "BANDIT" IS USED; IF IN THE TEXT, IT IS NOT USED. WHENEVER THE TERM PRC "REGIME" OR CCP IS USED, BE IT IN THE HEADLINE OR IN THE TEXT, THE TERM "BANDIT" IS STILL USED. HOWEVER, THE PRACTICE DESCRIBED ABOVE APPEARS TO BE MERELY A RULE OF THUMB AND AN OCCASIONAL "BANDIT" CAN STILL BE FOUND IN THE TEXTS OF ITEMS APPEARING IN CYJP.

2. CYJP EDITOR YAO PENG RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY EMPLOYEE THAT ALTHOUGH THE CYJP HAS NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES TO REDUCE THE USE OF THE TERM "BANDIT," THE CYJP SEVERAL YEARS AGO ADOPTED A PRACTICE OF LIMITING ITS USE. ACCORDING TO YAO, THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN UPON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTRUCTION OF CYJP PUBLISHER TSU SUNG-CHIU, WHO REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED DURING A TRIP TO THE U.S. THAT THE TERM WAS CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE BY OVERSEAS READERS.

3. THE CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (CNA), HOWEVER, STILL APPEARS TO FAVOR THE USE OF THE TERM "BANDIT." AN EXAMINATION OF RECENT CHINESE TEXTS OF CNA DISPATCHES REVEALS THAT CNA

CONTINUES TO USE "BANDIT" AFTER CHINESE NAMES IN BOTH THE HEADLINES AND TEXTS OF ITEMS PREPARED IN TAIPEI. SOME CNA ITEMS PREPARED BY CNA REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD USE THE TERM "BANDIT" AND OTHERS DO NOT, APPARENTLY REFLECTING THE PERSONAL PREFERENCE OF THE REPORTER.

4. BASED ON OUR RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POLICY CONCERNING THE USE OF THE TERM "BANDIT" HAS OCCURRED RECENTLY. NONETHELESS, THE GRADUAL DECLINE OF THE TERM IS PART OF THE BROADER QUESTION OF PRESS CENSORSHIP AND GUIDELINES WHICH WE CONTINUE TO WATCH CLOSELY AND PLAN TO COMMENT UPON IN THE FUTURE.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, SLOGANS, THE PRESS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 3630160
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF TERM \"BANDIT\"
TAGS: PINT, TW, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3e7b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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